



CARVER EALY/100th division

Command Sgt. Maj. Belcher, second from left, and Brig. Gen. Hunt presented division coins to the participants of the 2003 color guard competition.

Competition tough, as always

**By Sgt. 1st Class
Carver EALY**
100th Division PA

The morning of Aug. 16, 2003, started off like a typical hot summer day at Fort Knox, Ky., when color guard groups from the 100th Division (IT) eight brigades and Headquarters Company met on Victory field for the Association of the Century's (AOC) annual color guard competition. The sun rose slowly in the eastern sky, casting tree shadows on the viewing stands and the competition staging

area. The competition field, however, laid bare to the sun, foretelling the coming of the August heat. As each competitor took turns going through the mandatory movements, the competition heated up along with the temperature.

It took approximately two hours for each of the contenders to go through the eleven mandatory movements and be evaluated. Master Sgt. Howard Basham, the Assistant Commandant of the 100th Division Drill Sergeant school was assisted by three Drill Sgt. Instructors from the school. Basham was responsible for inspect-

ing each group on uniform and equipment appearance and military bearing. The Drill Sgt. Instructors checked the contestants for proper commands and execution of the movements. As he explained the sequence of events to me, Basham with the keen eye of a former Drill Sgt. and Drill Sgt. Instructor, pointed out movement deficiencies that some of the color guard competitors made for which the crew of three would be grading. Each color group received a zero or one grade point for movement com-

continued on the next page